

Overseas Relocation - Requesting a Sponsor

Request a Sponsor at Your Gaining Installation

When you get your assignment notification, make sure you request a sponsor. A sponsor can help make your transition/relocation trouble free. If you do not hear from your sponsor within 30 days of your departure, you should contact your gaining unit or the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 449-0300 or email at 15mss.dpf@hickam.af.mil.

When you get your sponsor, you can help him or her be the best sponsor possible. First, provide complete information about your travel arrangements and arrival time. Don't expect your sponsor to know your needs — be very specific about them.

Get Organized

Prepare a list of questions about the area you will be living in. A lot of your questions can be answered by looking at the information available from Navy Surface Spouses. If you can't find the answers there, ask your sponsor. By minimizing the number of questions you ask and being organized as you ask them, you'll help your sponsor respond better.

Ask your sponsor about their situation as well. Knowing if they have children at home, or if the spouse works outside the home, can help you know how available your sponsor will be for you.

They Need to Know

The most important things to tell your sponsor are your family's immediate needs. If you are arriving by air and your sponsor has agreed to pick you up, now might be a good time to warn them that you'll arrive with two car seats, a stroller, two sets of golf clubs, and the family pet in addition to your family members. Ask about rental cars or public transportation so you can get around until your vehicle arrives — don't expect that your sponsor will be able to drive you everywhere you need to go.

If your family includes an exceptional family member, be sure to let your sponsor know what special needs that family member may have. Although your new command may have already passed this information on to your sponsor, it is still a good idea to communicate all information and needs of your family.

If your sponsor offers to make lodging arrangements for you before your arrival, let them know of any special sleeping arrangements your family may have. If you have school-age children, ask about the local schools. If the spouse needs to be

employed outside of the home as soon as possible after your relocation, inquire about the job market. One good resource for this is the Airman and Family Readiness Center which can help a military spouse with everything from career planning to writing a résumé, interview techniques, and networking. Most local newspapers can now be accessed online and are a good way to learn more about your new home.

Above all, remember that your sponsor has volunteered to help you, so the more you can help them help you, the smoother and more enjoyable this relocation will be for your family.